

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2019-281-S**

IN RE:  Application of Palmetto Utilities, Inc. for adjustment of rates and charges for, and modification to certain terms and conditions <u>related to, the provision of sewer service.</u>	) ) ) ) ) )	<b><u>PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY</u></b> <b><u>OF</u></b> <b><u>JOEL E. WOOD</u></b> <b><u>ON BEHALF OF PALMETTO</u></b> <b><u>UTILITIES, INC.</u></b>
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1    **Q.    PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

2    A.    My name is Joel E. Wood. My business address is 2160 Filbert Highway, York,  
 3        South Carolina, 29745.

5    **Q.    WHERE ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?**

6    A.    I am the Founding and Managing Partner and a Project Engineer for Joel E. Wood &  
 7        Associates, L.L.C.

9    **Q.    HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN EMPLOYED AT JOEL E. WOOD & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.?**

10   A.    I have been employed there since March of 1999, when I organized the firm.

12   **Q.    PLEASE LEASE DESCRIBE JOEL E. WOOD & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.**

13   A.    Joel E. Wood & Associates, L.L.C. is a planning, engineering and management firm  
 14        providing services to a variety of businesses and governmental entities, including  
 15        engineering, management and planning for major public works projects including  
 16        utility systems.

18   **Q.    WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?**

19   A.    I have an Associate of Science degree in civil engineering from Gaston College and a  
 20        Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Winthrop University.

1   **Q.   PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE.**

2   A.   My experience includes water system evaluations, studies and designs, roadway  
3       evaluations and studies, sewage collection and treatment evaluations, studies and  
4       designs, long range planning, rate studies and municipal engineering. Throughout my  
5       career I have served governmental and investor owned utilities. Prior to forming Joel  
6       E. Woods & Associates, L.L.C., I was a managing partner of Power Engineering  
7       Company, served as County Engineer for York County, and was a corporate vice  
8       president of Williams Engineering Company. I began my career in engineering as an  
9       engineering aid with Davis & Floyd Engineering Company.

10

11   **Q.   DO YOU HOLD ANY PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS?**

12   A.   Yes. I am a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina, North Carolina and  
13       Virginia. My first registration was in South Carolina in 1975.

14

15   **Q.   DO YOU HAVE ANY PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS?**

16   A.   Yes. Among others, I am a member of the National Society of Professional  
17       Engineers, the South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers, and the American  
18       Society of Civil Engineers.

19

20   **Q.   HAVE YOU BEEN QUALIFIED TO GIVE EXPERT TESTIMONY BEFORE?**

21   A.   I have, on several occasions, been qualified to give expert testimony on engineering  
22       related issues in various courts.

23

24   **Q.   WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

25   A.   The purpose of my testimony is to provide the Commission with the basis for my  
26       opinion regarding the valuation, as of October 30, 2012, of certain wastewater  
27       collection facilities purchased from the City of Columbia by Palmetto of Richland  
28       County, LLC (PRC). It is my understanding that PRC was merged into Palmetto  
29       Utilities, Inc. (PUI) in 2017. It is also my understanding that my Evaluation Report  
30       dated January 9, 2013, and containing my opinion was filed with the Commission in

1 this Docket on September 20, 2019. Nonetheless, I attach a copy of it to my testimony  
2 as Exhibit A for the sake of convenience and ease of reference.

3  
4 **Q. WAS EXHIBIT A TO YOUR TESTIMONY PREPARED BY YOU OR UNDER YOUR**  
5 **SUPERVISION?**

6 A. Yes.

7  
8 **Q. WOULD YOU PLEASE DESCRIBE WHAT EXHIBIT A TO YOUR TESTIMONY SHOWS?**

9 A. Exhibit A consists of a cover letter, a description of the project scope, a description of  
10 the existing facilities, a description of methods that are commonly used to determine  
11 the value of utility systems and the method used in this report, a calculation of the  
12 cost less depreciation of the Sewerage Collection and Transmission lines, the cost less  
13 depreciation of lift stations, and an executive summary.

14  
15 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION AS TO THE VALUE OF THESE FACILITIES?**

16 A. It is my opinion, within a reasonable degree of engineering certainty, that the value of  
17 these facilities, based on the "Replacement Cost New Less Depreciation"  
18 methodology, as of October 30, 2012, was \$40,524,654, with \$38,943,514 of that  
19 amount being for collection and transmission lines and \$1,581,654 of that amount  
20 being for lift stations.

21  
22 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

23 A. Yes. It does.